

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /079 W

----- 049434

R 070945Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4623

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 2240

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, SW

SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES GET NEW CONTRACT

REF: STOCKHOLM 1834 AND 2091

1. A TWO-YEAR WAGE AND SALARY AGREEMENT FOR 600,000 MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WAS SIGNED ON MAY 5. THIS IS LAST OF THREE MAJOR NATIONAL WAGE NEGOTIATIONS TO BE CONCLUDED. MAIN ELEMENTS OF PACKAGE WERE GENERAL RAISE OF 5 PERCENT IN FIRST YEAR AND 3 PERCENT IN SECOND AND NEW WAGE SCALES WITH CLOSER INTERVALS BETWEEN GRADES. EFFECT OF THESE AND OTHER WAGE MEASURES WILL ADD UP TO AVERAGE 16 PERCENT INCREASE IN 1975 AND 8 PERCENT IN 1976. IN CASH TERMS, MOST EMPLOYEES WILL RECEIVE INCREASES OF SKR. 600-650 PER MONTH (4 SKR. EQUALS 1 DOLLAR). IN 1975 (1976 IN PARENTHESIS) MONTHLY SALARIES WILL RANGE FROM SKR. 2017 (218) AT BOTTOM OF SCALE THROUGH SKR. 5228 (5425) AT MID-POINT TO CEILING OF SKR. 14,607 (15,085). IT IS ESTIMATED THAT NEW CONTRACT WILL BOOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAGE BILL BY ABOUT 32 PERCENT OVER TWO YEAR PERIOD.

2. AS IN CASE OF TWO PREVIOUS NATIONAL AGREEMENTS, PRESS COMMENT STRESSED RECORD-BREAKING LEVEL OF PRESENT SETTLEMENT

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AND PREDICTED LOCAL TAX FREEZE FOR 1975 AND 1976 MIGHT HAVE TO

BE ABANDONED TO PAY FOR IT.

3. ONLY LARGE GROUP STILL WITHOUT CONTRACT IS 250,000-MEMBER SWEDISH UNION OF CLERICAL AND TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES IN INDUSTRY (SIF) WHICH IS NOW IN EXPOSED AND DIFFICULT POSITION. AS RESULT BREAKUP OF WHITE-COLLAR BARGAINING CARTEL (PTK) SOME MONTHS AGO, SIF HAS BEEN PURSUING NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS BUT THESE HAVE ALL ENDED IN IMPASSE. SIF HAS NOW TURNED TO SPECIAL NEGOTIATING BODY CALLED SERVICE MARKET COMMITTEE ON WHICH SWEDISH EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION (SAF) IS REPRESENTED. IF THIS ALSO FAILS, SIF WILL HAVE OPTION TO STRIKE BUT THIS IS NOT REGARDED AS SERIOUS POSSIBILITY AT MOMENT.

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